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Etheldreda House,

ELY.

ELY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To: The Chairman and Members,
Ely Urban District Council.



1957.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen - I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1957:-

1. STATISTICS: During 1957, the usual statistics have been kept and are available. These are not included in my Report.

2. (a) Ambulances: Two Ambulances are stationed at Ely, both being operated by the Isle of Ely County Council.

The Littleport St. John Ambulance continues to work under the agency agreement with the County Council. This vehicle, which serves the local area, and those areas adjoining when necessary, continues to be of the greatest value.

As in previous years, the Ely and Littleport St. John Divisions provide attendants for all three vehicles. This work is done voluntarily by members in their spare time. Yet another year of devoted and willing service has been given by the members of St. John to the public.

(b) Nursing and Clinic Arrangements:

These are the same as for previous years. The District Nurses continue to give cheerfully their invaluable services to those needing their help.

(c) Hospitals: (i) Tower Hospital for Chronic Sick.
(ii) The Isolation Hospital.
(iii) The Grange Maternity Home.

These Hospitals are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

3. WATER:

(a) The supply for Ely, including Stuntney, Adelaide, Prickwillow and Chettisham is obtained from one well and two boreholes at the Council's Waterworks at Isleham. The condition of the plant including the pumping and chloramine equipment proved to be satisfactory throughout the year.

The pumping plant in the main well is nearing the end of its natural life and will soon need replacement.

The boring for the new borehole has been completed and proved; and permission is now being awaited to go to tender for the plant.

3. WATER: (Continued)

I must repeat my dissatisfaction with the inadequate water storage provision in the City. The years pass only too rapidly, and with each year the urgency of this problem increases.

Referring to the renewal of the worst sections of the pumping main, it is satisfactory to note that the year under review has seen the half-way stage reached. The work should be completed next year.

- (b) (i) Four bacteriological examinations were made during the year by the Public Health Service Laboratory at Cambridge, and all proved satisfactory.
- (ii) The water has no plumbo-solvent action.
- (iii) The quality and quantity of water has proved satisfactory. No contamination was discovered during the year, and, therefore, no action in respect of this has been necessary.
- (iv) A recent check on present conditions shows the following:-

160 houses are without a proper water supply = 4%.
40 houses are supplied by standpipe ... = 1%.
The remaining houses have a proper water supply = 95%.

4. SEWAGE:

(i) Extensions:

No extensions were made in 1957.

(ii) Sewage Disposal Works:

Agreement in principle has been given by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government to the new disposal works scheme. It is hoped that all plans will be ready by January 1958; in which case it may well be possible to start work on this in twelve months (December 1958).

Until these urgently required disposal works are in operation, no improvement in the quality of the effluent can be expected. I can only comment yet once again on my dissatisfaction with the existing state of affairs.

- (iii) With care, the Prickwillow Disposal Works have continued to operate reasonably satisfactorily during 1957.
- (iv) The last open section of Lynn Road - Downham Road watercourse has now been piped. There is one old piped length, however, which is in a poor condition.

5. HOUSING:

- (a) Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation or in a condition prejudicial to health 204.
- (b) Number of houses, the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action 52.

5. HOUSING: (Continued)

(c) Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to:-

- (i) The serving of notices requiring the execution of works 0.
- (ii) The making of demolition orders 10.
- (iii) The making of closing orders ... 6.
- (d) Number of formal notices served requiring the execution of works 0.
- (e) (i) Number of demolition orders made 7.
(Number under consideration at end of year ... 3.)
- (ii) Number of closing orders made 6.
- (f) Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted 0.
- (g) Number of houses demolished 14.
- (h) Number of formal notices served under the Public Health Act 1936 3.

During the year under review more demolition and closing orders have been made than in previous years. More houses upon which demolition orders have been made in previous years have been demolished.

The 10 houses included in the Council's first Clearance Area were demolished during the year. Even the bitterest critics of the Council's action must have been surprised at the poor condition of the houses when demolition was in progress.

The Council declared a further two Clearance Areas during the year. Both were opposed and an inquiry was held in each case. In one case the order was confirmed (without any well maintained payment being given to the owner as he had requested); the other was still undecided at the end of the year.

During the year the Rent Act 1957 became law and as a result the rents of many smaller properties have been increased. The tenants can apply to the Council for a Certificate of Disrepair after certain procedures have been gone through. From the small number of applications it would seem that either the tenants are satisfied with the condition of the house which they occupy or else that they are unaware that they can contest the increase.

6. SCHOOLS: I have no comments to make this year.

7. MILK:

The majority of milk sold in this area is either pasteurised or T.T. or both. A very small amount is produced by persons keeping one or two cows and this is often given to their employees. There does not appear to be much control which can be exercised over this practice.

During the years since the war there has been considerable improvement in the way in which milk is sold. The Milk & Dairies

7. MILK: (Continued)

Regulations (1949) have been of great help in producing these much needed improvements, and at the same time there are signs that many retailers are conscious of their responsibilities in this respect. This sense of responsibility must also extend to the employees concerned. It has been said that "the price of freedom is eternal vigilance". The same can be applied to clean milk. I feel it necessary to stress once again, that these Regulations can and must be definitely enforced, and if and when offenders are found the necessary steps will be unhesitatingly taken.

Again, I wish to draw the Council's attention to the filthy habit observed among some members of the public in using milk bottles for fluids other than milk. I cannot condemn this practice too strongly, as well as that of leaving collections of milk bottles at pavement level within easy range of, inter alia, the passing canine population.

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

- (a) 53 notifications of infectious disease were received. The total is made up as follows:-

Anterior Poliomyelitis	1.
Bacillary dysentery	1.
Measles	13.
Pneumonia	24.
Scarlet Fever	7.
Whooping Cough	7.
Total	<u>53.</u>

- (b) Disinfection of premises etc., is regularly carried out in cases of notifiable disease; also when infection is reported, or requests are received for any special reasons.

- (c) Yet again, I have the greatest pleasure in recording that no cases of diphtheria have occurred in the District this year. As in previous years, I must stress that this record can only be maintained if every child is immunized against this disease.

Again, in these days of greatly increased travel, especially air travel, vaccination against small pox is equally imperative.

(d) Tuberculosis:

7 new cases were notified during the year. After making necessary adjustment, there are now the following numbers on the Register:-

<u>Respiratory:</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory:</u>
Males: 32.	-
Females: 20.	5.

Compared with 1956, the total figures show an increase of 3 cases made up as follows:-

<u>Respiratory:</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory:</u>
Males: 2.	-
Females: -	1.

9. FOOD:

(a) Premises:

- (i) 10 premises are registered for the preparation of Sausages and Preserved Food. During the year one premises ceased to be eligible for registration. In regard to another case the registration was cancelled owing to him deciding to give up business because of inability to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations.
- (ii) 34 Premises are registered for storage and sale of Ice Cream. There is no ice cream manufactured for sale in the area.
In all 93 visits were paid to these premises.
- (iii) There is one private slaughter house in the district. Meat inspection is carried out by a Veterinary Surgeon. The Government are at present considering regulations concerning construction, layout and equipment. If these regulations come into force in anything like their draft form this slaughter house will need drastic alteration.
- (iv) The following is a list of food handling premises in the area:-

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	11.
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack						
Bars	...	...	...	...	...	8.
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...				4.
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	12.
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	11.
Licensed Premises	...	...	...			41.
Sweets and Tobacco	...	...	...			10.
Wet and Fried Fish	...	...	...			5.
Wholesale Warehouse	...	...	...			1.
School Kitchens	...	...	...	...		4.
General Stores	...	...	...	...		17.
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...		2.
Mineral Water Manufacturers	...					1.
Brewery	...	...	...	...	...	1.

(b) Food Hygiene:

Much time has been spent in this sphere. Although many useful alterations have been made it is still very disheartening to see the attitude of many food handlers. Even though they know the regulations they are not prepared to make any alterations to their premises or conduct until threatened with legal action.

In three premises wash hand basins and constant hot water supplies have been provided. In a further 3 cases wash hand basins have been provided adjoining an existing sink and hot water supply. Further cases are in the process of carrying out improvements at the end of the year.

Condemned food is buried, except for meat, which is sent to a processing Factory.

The Public Health Inspector has done most valuable work, and I cannot praise too highly his thoroughness, tact and persevering efforts, at times in the face of much discouragement and opposition.

9. FOOD: (Continued)

(b) Food Hygiene:

The City owes much to him. When necessary, I accompany him. I am pleased to note that there is an increasing tendency for advice to be sought from us.

We would much rather help in avoiding infringements of the Regulations, than in chasing offenders.

(c) Unsound Food:

The following items of food were surrendered unfit for food and destroyed:-

84 x 6 lb tins Corned Beef.
13 x 12 oz " " "
2 x 6 oz " " "
10 x 12 oz " " Mutton.
1 x 14 lb tin Ham.
4 x 1 lb " Luncheon Meat.
2 x 7 lb " Stewed Steak.
37 assorted tins of fruit, vegetables etc.
546 lbs Beef.
1 carcase of New Zealand Lamb (39 lbs).
1 x 28 lb box frozen pigs kidneys.

Once again, I would draw attention to the need for special vigilance by those who handle and sell processed meat (Corned Beef, Ham etc.).

10. MISCELLANEOUS:

(i) Insect Pest Control:

No unusual problems have been encountered.

(ii) Shops:

Routine inspections have been carried out - no special problems met.

(iii) Rodent Control:

Your rodent operator is well known in the area for the good work he does and many of the complaints are dealt with by him in an informal way. He has recently been devoting more time to inspection of properties, particularly agricultural properties. 234 different properties have been treated.

(iv) Smoke Abatement:

During the year these parts of the Clean Air Act dealing with Smoke Control Areas came into force. This area is not greatly troubled with industrial smoke. Improvements could be carried out if public opinion demanded Smoke Control areas of domestic buildings. All postwar Council houses have been equipped with modern grates which would not need adapting if they came within a smoke control area.

10. MISCELLANEOUS: (Continued)(v) Moveable Dwellings:

In co-operation with the Planning Authority, the owner of a piece of land where 3 caravans had been kept was refused permission to have the vehicles there any longer because of drainage difficulties. The Council were considering taking proceedings against the occupier of a caravan where a licence had been refused.

Existing legislation continues to render abortive any real constructional efforts in dealing with this problem. Sometime in the future trouble will develop, I am sure, unless more practical legislation is enacted.

(vi) Factories:

There are 13 non mechanical and 57 mechanical factories in the register. Routine inspections have been carried out and minor defects only have been found to need attention.

(vii) Common Lodging Houses:

There is one licensed Common Lodging House in the City. The premises are clean and appear to be well run.

(viii) Swimming Pool:

The season has been a satisfactory one and the pool is much appreciated. The Chloramine Plant continues to need very careful watching on account of its age.

(ix) Refuse Tip:

The condition of the Tip is fair. Every effort is taken to improve conditions here.

11. PERSONAL:

My warmest thanks are due to my colleague Mr. Roy E. Smith, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I., for all his work during the year and for all his assistance and his many kindnesses and helpful acts to me personally.

Likewise to the Surveyor & Water Engineer, Mr. J. V. G. Shilston, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E. etc., and his staff: I can only say - and really mean - "Thank you".

I have the honour to be,
Ladies & gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) K. S. MAURICE SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health,
Ely Urban District Council.

10th September, 1958.

